

become interested, and therefore educated to the fact that the profession of nursing is as important as the medical profession, and that quackery among nurses is not to be countenanced any more than quackery in any other profession?

It seems to me that the real help towards establishing this state of things is not coming from doctors, who, in spite of all that nurses have done, still continue to employ untrained nurses; nor from lawyers, who admit that registration is right and let it go at that; but from the every-day reading public, who are our true employers, and are the ones who would naturally demand skilled work for good money. Also, it is only by giving wide publicity to the matter that those women who have no right to style themselves "trained nurses," but nevertheless demand trained nurses' fees, can be reached, and have the enormity of their deception placed before them and the public.

Monthly and weekly periodicals reach comparatively few; newspapers reach everyone. Therefore let all such articles as the one on "The Progress of Registration," written by Miss L. L. Dock, be published in every daily paper, and not confined solely to the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. I am writing this from my own personal experience, and also because I have heard educated members of the reading public express ignorance and surprise that such a step as state registration is in existence, and wonder what its accompanying benefits may be to the public. If publicity is not given to registration, the privilege of writing R. N. after her name will not be of any more value to the nurse in the future than the diploma and badge have been to her in the past.

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DEAR EDITOR: I should like to say to "Yearling" that when in doubt, an excellent rule to follow is to do that which is useful to one's patient, for it is the nurse who is of service who continues to be in demand. As to diaper washing, I started on my career as a private nurse with the idea that it was work which did not belong to me, and I clung to that idea for some time, until I found out how upsetting it was to an entire household to add that to the work of an already overburdened servant. If there is a laundress, regularly employed, I give her the diapers to do, but I wash out the soiled ones as soon as they are taken off the baby, and leave them soaking in cold water and ivory soap. The good feeling this brings forth repays me for the little extra work. All

servants dislike to wash diapers which have been left standing, and who can blame them? Where there is no laundress, I do them myself. If the patient will provide an agate pail and a tiny wash-board, the washing can be done in the bath-room and the boiling on the kitchen stove, with no trouble to any one. If put on to boil in cold water, there will be no stains. I usually give the baby's flannels to the washer-woman to do, as she has better facilities for doing them, and knows how to keep them soft better than I do.

To wheel a baby carriage through city streets is a most monotonous and tiresome occupation. I would far rather wash diapers, but I never refuse to do it, if the mother of the baby wishes me to take it out, for I see so many carriages bumped about by careless nurse-maids, or turned toward the sun or wind, that I think the poor babies should be in the care of the best available person. In the country, in summer, especially where there are large grounds for the baby's use, it is a delight to be out with it.

The only time I envy nurses of other schools their out-door uniforms is when I see one out with a baby, for she is secure from friendly advances from nurse-maids. Some of these I am glad to know, but they are not the ones who hail a passing stranger with a carriage as one of their own gossiping craft.

K. D.,
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DEAR EDITOR: I think our private nurses are prone to shirk answering questions and papers that appear in the *JOURNAL*, each one thinking, I suppose, that one more competent and less busy will take it upon herself to answer them.

In reply to "Yearling" in the March *JOURNAL*, I would say that while I have done only a limited amount of obstetrical work in eight years of nursing, I have always found it more satisfactory to attend to the washing of the baby's flannels myself unless quite sure that the servant could and would do it properly.

I think a servant should do the napkins. I have never wheeled the baby out myself. It seems to me better to let a servant do that. Of course, if there were no servant I should do it myself. It has been my observation, however, that many obstetrical nurses do wheel the baby out, and in uniform.

Speaking of going out in uniform, I wonder why intolerance is such a common fault of nurses, who of all people should cultivate a spirit of tolerance? A recently read article on the subject of a nurse going on the street in uniform would lead one to suppose that under